

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-14 EA-12 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00
IO-14 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00
FRB-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-02 AID-05 SS-15 STR-04 ITC-01 TRSE-00
USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 FEAE-00 OMB-01 SIL-01 XMB-04
OPIC-06 /166 W

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R 312000Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7040

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 KINGSTON 5102

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, BEXP, JM
SUBJECT: LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN SUGAR EXPORTERS
MOVE TO FIND COMMON STRATEGY FOR UPCOMING INTERNATIONAL
SUGAR AGREEMENT

REF: KINGSTON 4009

1. ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY DELEGATES FROM 22 SUGAR-EXPORTING COUNTRIES IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN BEGAN A MEETING IN KINGSTON AUGUST 29 TO FIND A COMMON STRATEGY FOR THE FORTHCOMING INTERNATIONAL SUGAR CONFERENCE SET FOR GENEVA IN SEPTEMBER. THE COUNTRIES INCLUDE THE PHILLIPINES IN OBSERVER STATUS.

2. OPENING THE CONFERENCE, JAMAICAN MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, P.J. PATTERSON, DECLARED THAT THE GROUP WAS FULLY JUSTIFIED IN PRESSING CLAIMS FOR AN INTERNATIONAL SUGAR AGREEMENT WHICH SECURES ON A CONTINUING BASIS, A FAIR RETURN TO REASONABLY EFFICIENT PRODUCERS AND AT THE SAME TIME GUARANTEES STABLE SUPPLIES TO THE CONSUMER AT REASONABLE PRICES. PATTERSON ALSO SAID THAT IT IS IMPORTANT UNCLASSIFIED

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FOR THE GROUP TO WORK FOR SUCH AN AGREEMENT AS IT IS PART OF THE GLOBAL APPLICATION OF A NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER.

3. THE MEETING IS THE SEVENTH REUNION OF THE GROUP KNOWN AS GEPLACEA. THE GROUP PRODUCES 60 PER CENT OF THE WORLD'S SUGAR OUTPUT. THE MEETING WILL CONTINUE UNTIL

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 3RD. SUBSTANTIVE PORTIONS OF FOREIGN
MINISTER PATTERSON'S OPENING ADDRESS FOLLOW.

4. QUOTE: THE STRATEGIES WE DEVELOP HERE AND THE
SERIOUSNESS OF INTENT THAT WE DISPLAY IN OUR SEARCH FOR
AN AGREEMENT CAN HAVE AN IMPORTANT INFLUENCE ON THE
DELIBERATIONS WHICH WILL COMMENCE IN GENEVA LATER THIS
MONTH.

5. MR. CHAIRMAN EVERY COUNTRY WHICH IS REPRESENTED HERE
IS AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE WHICH SUGAR PLAYS IN THE
ECONOMY, IN EMPLOYMENT, IN FOREIGN EXCHANGE AND INDEED
IN ITS CONTRIBUTION TO SOCIAL AND POLITICAL STABILITY.
ON THAT BASIS ALONE, JAMAICA AND OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE
GROUP ARE FQKLY JUSTIFIED IN PRESSING THEIR CLAIMS FOR
AN AGREEMENT WHICH SECURES ON A CONTINUING BASIS A FAIR
RETURN TO REASONABLY EFFICIENT PRODUCERS WHICH AT THE SAME
TIME, GUARANTEES A STABLE SUPPLY TO THE CONSUMER AT A
REASONABLE PRICE. BUT THERE IS INDEED A MORE FAR-REACHING
JUSTIFICATION. WE SEE THESE NEGOTIATIONS AS PART OF THAT
BODY OF MEASURES AND IDEAS WHICH SEEK THE TRANSFORMATION OF
ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN RICH AND POOR, DEVELOPED AND
DEVELOPING AND WHICH ARE EMBRACED BY THE CONCEPT OF A NEW
INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER.

6. I SELIEVE THAT A TRANSFORMATION IN THE ECONOMIC
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RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THE DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING
WORLD MUST COME NOT MERELY BECAUSE IT IS JUST BUT BECAUSE
THE CRISIS IN THE ECONOMIES OF THE DEVELOPED WORLD
ITSELF INDICATES THAT THE TIME FOR CHANGE HAS COME.

7. I EXPECT THAT MANY WILL CONTINUE TO RESIST THAT CHANGE
BUT I BELIEVE THAT THE TIDES OF CHANGE ARE IRRESTIBLE.
THEY ARE IRRESISTIBLE NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF THE MORAL
IMPERATICIS BUT ALSO BECAUSE CBF ECONOMIC NECESSITY. TODAY,
WE LIVE IN A WORLD OF INTERDEPENDENCE. THE LOSS OF A
MARKET IN ONE COUNTRY VERY OFTEN MEANS UNEMPLOYMENT IN
ANOTHER.

8. IF THEREFORE, WE SO ORDER OUR GLOBAL RELATIONSHIPS IN
SUCH A WAY THAT ECONOMIES ARE COMPLEMENTARY ONE TO ANOTHER,
OPPORTUNITY IS GIVEN TO THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO
MAXIMISE THEIR RETURNS FROM THE PRODUCTION OF THOSE GOODS
AND SERVICES WHICH ARE BEST GEARED TO THEIR RESOURCES,
THEIR SKILLS AND THEIR NEEDS. THIS ENABLES THE
GLOBAL ECONOMY TO ADVANCE NOT AT THE EXPENSE OF THE MANY
FOR THE BENEFIT OF A FEW, BUT FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL.

9. FOR MANY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, AND IN PARTICULAR MEMBER
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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGRE-00 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05
L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 AID-05 SS-15
STR-04 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01
XMB-04 SIL-01 OPIC-06 IO-14 AF-10 EA-12 EUR-12
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-----040237 020314Z /65

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FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y F O R T E X T

COUNTRIES OF GEPLACEA, COMMODITIES, AND IN PARTICULAR
SUGAR, CAN PLAY A DYNAMIC ROLE IN THE RESHAPING AND
DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR ECONOMIES.

10. THE INTEGRATED COMMODITIES PROGRAMMES, INCLUDING THE COMMON
FUND ARE THEREFORE ESSENTIAL BUILDING BLOCKS OF A NEW
INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER. ANY STEP ANYWHERE WHICH IS
TAKEN IN SECURING A BETTER DEAL FOR COMMODITIES IS
THEREFORE AN IMPORTANT MILESTONE TOWARDS THAT GOAL.
SUGAR, MR. CHAIRMAN, BECAUSE OF ITS IMPORTANCE TO THE
ECONOMIES OF BOTH DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IS
ONE OF THE CORE COMMODITIZS TO WHICH ATTENTION HAS BEEN
GIVEN BY THE UNCTAD PROGRAMME. IT HAS BEEN SUGGESTED IN
SOMYS QUARTERS THAT THE WORLD COMMUNITY SHOULD ADOPT A
STEP BY STEP APPROACH TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTEGRATED
COMMODITY PROGRAMME. SUPPORTERS OF THAT SCHOOL OF
THOUGHT BELIEVE THAT ONLY IN THAT WAY CAN THE OBJECTIVES
OF THE INTEGRATED APPROACH BE SUCCESSFULLY IMPLEMENTED.
IF THEY FIRMLY BELIEVE
THIS TO BE THE CASE THEN THE GENEVA
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NEGOTIATIONS I SUGGEST MUST BE MADE TO SUCCEED FOR NO OTHER REASON BUT TO DEMONSTRATE THE CORRECTNESS OF THAT APPROACH IF NOT THE SINCERITY OF THE ADVOCATES OF THAT VIEW.

11. MR. CHAIRMAN, IN YOUR DELIBERATIONS I KNOW THAT YOU WILL ALSO BE LOOKING AT OTHER ASPECTS OF THAT PRECIOUS COMMODITY - SUGAR. TECHNOLOGY DOES NOT STAND STILL. WE CAN HELP EACH OTHER THROUGH THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON NEW TECHNIQUES OF CULTIVATION AND PRODUCTION AND NEW APPROACHES IN THE FIGHT AGAINST PLANT DISEASE WHICH MENACE OUR CROPS. WE CAN ALSO EXCHANGE INFORMATION ON THE STATE OF MARKETS, IMPROVE OUR FORECASTING TECHNIQUES AND STUDY THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS OF BY-PRODUCTS OF THE SUGAR CANE. ATTENTION NEEDS ALSO TO BE GIVEN TO THE THREAT POSED BY SUGAR SUBSTITUTES SUCH AS HIGH FRUCTOSE CORN SYRUPS AND ARTIFICIAL SWEETENERS. ALL THESE AND MORE ARE IMPORTANT BENEFITS TO BE GAINED FROM MEMBERSHIP OF YOUR ORGANISATION AND I SALUTE ALL THOSE WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO ITS FOUNDING AND ITS SECRETARIAT WHICH HAS DONE SO MUCH IN THE ADVANCEMENT OF GEPLACEA.

12. MR. CHAIRMAN, DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES, ALL JAMAICA WELCOME YOU AND HOPE THAT YOU WILL BE SUCCESSFUL IN YOUR DELIBERATIONS.

13. AS MEMBERS OF GEPLACEA LET US ALL PLEDGE TO DO OUR PART TO GUARANTEE THAT SUCCESS. BUT LET US AT THE SAME TIME RECOGNISE THAT A NEW INTERNATIONAL SUGAR AGREEMENT WILL NOT BE ACHIEVED BY OUR EFFORTS ALONE. ANY PRECIPITATE UNILATERAL ACTION BY A SUGAR IMPORTER OR SUGAR EXPORTER ANYWHERE TO IMPOSE NEW RESTRICTIONS AFFECTING THE INTERNATIONAL MARKETING OF SUGAR
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COULD AT THIS POINT IN TIME SERIOUSLY JEOPARDISE ANY PROSPECT OF SUCCESS IN THOSE NEGOTIATIONS. I NOW LEAVE WITH YOU THE THOUGHT THAT YOU ARE NOT ENGAGED IN SELFISH PURSUIT OF GAINS FOR THIS GROUP ALONE. YOUR EFFORTS ARE PART OF THAT ALREADY LONG CHAIN OF EVENTS WHICH HAVE BEEN TAKING PLACE IN FORUMS ACROSS THE WORLD TO TRY AND REDRESS THE IMBALANCE IN THE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THE RICH AND THE POOR.

14. SUCCESS AT THIS KINGSTON MEETING IS A VITAL STEP IN THE LONG MARCH TOWARDS A NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER. UNQUOTE

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